

MINUTES OF THE ISLE ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6th JANUARY 2016 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs Habberfield, Bradshaw, Morris, Pix, DC Sue Steele, the Clerk and 11 members of the public.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr. Herbert.
2. There were no **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**.
3. The **MINUTES** of the last meeting held on Wednesday 4th November 2015 were read and approved.
4. **MATTERS ARISING:** a) Playgroup finances- The Clerk had e-mailed CC LeHardy to get clarification on the £500 allocated from the Health and Wellbeing Fund as the Parish Council were under the impression that this was for the Playgroup. To date no reply had been received. However, Cllr Morris produced a copy of an e-mail from the County Councillor to the Village Hall Chairperson dated the 21st January 2015 whereby it clarified that the money was for the Village Hall Committee to use as they see fit. With this clarification the matter was considered closed. b) Pensions in the Workplace- Cllr Bradshaw had received a reply from the Pensions Regulator who has stated that the Parish Council do not require a Pension Plan to be put in place. c) Precept- Cllr Bradshaw produced paperwork to support the keeping of the Precept at the current level of £1690.00 for 2016/7. This was approved by the Council. A rebuild estimate for the Bus Shelter was in hand. The lining at Two Bridges had not been carried out by the end of last year, so this was still ongoing. The Clerk had made a submission for small road improvement funding, namely for Blind Lane, Ilton Road and Manor Road. No decision as yet had been received. d) Village Housing- the Chairman asked Councillors for their views on the needs etc. for housing development in the village. Comments varied between demand for affordable housing, employment and provision of local systems and services.
5. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME-** Following on from item 4(d) above, the Chairman asked for comments/observations from the Public. These followed along similar lines as those expressed by Councillors. Mr Mike Williams, a Chartered Town Planner advising Mr John Medcalf of Thimble Hall, pointed out the villagers' views on further housing contained in the 2006 village plan as well as information in the South Somerset Local Plan. In conclusion, the Chairman of the Parish Council suggested that a planning application be submitted and then full consideration could be given.
6. **ROADS AND FOOTPATHS-** in Cllr Herbert's absence, the Clerk reported that the potholes in front of the driveway at Stoneford Farm (report no: 378715) had been repaired. The signpost at Round Oak required securing- the Clerk to remedy. Footpaths- Cllr Habberfield had nothing to report.
7. **FLOODING-** Councillors felt that the past flooding situation at Badbury had vastly improved following the clearing of the ditch.
8. **FINANCE-** Cllr Bradshaw produced the financial statement up to 06/01/16. Current account £488.51. Deposit account £2,893.29. Total £3,381.80. Payments approved: Clerks fees (November 2015 + January 2016) £120.80: HMRC (PAYE November 2015 + January 2016) £20.20. The payment of the National Living Wage to the Clerk would have to be discussed at the next meeting.
9. **CORRESPONDENCE-** Planning application 15/04271/FUL + 15/04272/LBC. Mr Peter Furniss of Cuffs Orchard had received permission to erect a garage. E-mail from Streetscene Manager asking if the Parish required litter/dog bins. It was decided to decline. E-mail received from Jeremy Greenop CRO RNAS Yeovilton notifying the Parish Council of his retirement at the end of February plus the Parish Notice of Activity for 2016 which will be posted on the Parish Noticeboard. Also a letter had been received from Commodore Jon Pentreath advising that there will be no annual Merryfield Open Evening this year because of security constraints.
10. **ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA-** a) National Living Wage.
11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING-** Wednesday 2nd. March 2016 at 7.30pm. (The Clerk advised that he would not be available for this meeting and Mandy Hughes kindly volunteered to act as Clerk)

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.43pm

Signed.....

Date.....